

# Soundings

NEWSLETTER of EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM

June, 2022

## Winter draws onwards

Here we are half way through 2 Already bringing with it, the winter solstice, the true start of the winter. Once again, we ask ourselves where has the year gone?

I think there is little doubt that if one is busy, time appears to fly. Busy? We, most certainly have been.

Trying to mop up the small consequences of the building programme has been much more involved than what we had envisaged. As we put our collective finger in the dyke, so the pressure concentrates itself in another segment of the job. We will overcome, but the need to attend these outbreaks, prevents us moving onto other planned avenues, as quickly as we might.

The main bone of contention is a biggie. It is questionable whether the increased power required by the added load of the lift, will tip us over the capacity of the present system. It didn't present as a surprise, we have been aware of this possibility since the outset, but we feel somewhat let down with one trade. Others cannot proceed, thus creating a Mexican stand off. It being quite highly technical, we are at the mercy of specialists in that field.

We were hoping that the week beginning 13th June, would bring a clearer understanding of when we can move forward. As I get back to the screen, and that date well past, we are still running on the spot. Until this situation is clarified, the lift will remain stalled. If life is full of ups and downs, this example is yet to experience some ups!

This month brings to a close another financial year. It's been a rocky road, with all the goings-on previously mentioned. One shining star throughout the immediate past has been the Dine and Discover vouchers which have boosted our sales quite pleasingly. To be all cashed in by the 30th June, we will miss their contribution to our takings.



Unable to use our own facility, the Board met several times in St Johns Hall. Members Jen Drenkhahn, Leone Fairweather, Margaret Sheaves, Chris Bingham, J.D. Collections Manager Jodie White, visitor Rosalie Dickenson. Apology Jeff Swane.

## Things That I Hear

A news item tells of some significant amounts being awarded to local projects.

The very active voluntary committee which has been working toward the mountain bike track network, here on the home front, will see \$4,000,000 come into the project.

With earlier successes with Forestry Commission and similarly the local indigenous body, very much on side it puts the project really on track for early completion.

In the main, followers of this sport are said to be people with a healthy disposable income.

I have raised this matter before. I believe there is an opportunity for us to be part of welcoming these enthusiasts, to our own advantage

As I understand it there are two racks, being one on each of the Imlay St and the Bass and Chandos Sts', corners.

It could be an opportunity to finally get the memorial pavement done, while installing two racks and a couple of banks of weatherproof lockers. Not to mention the eradication of the white stones

This is on the assumption that some will visit on their bikes. Further, when they do, they will have backpacks. The idea is that they are able to get a locker by paying a deposit on the key, prior to entering. The deposit is then fully refunded on return of the key. This may also be used by school groups where the kids' gear is safe and not lying about as possible trip hazards, to other visitors.

It will probably be a \$10,000 job. I don't mind looking for some grant opportunities. I believe that a contribution from ourselves would enhance an application.

# PEOPLE

**Ben Neville** has returned home where he will study for his degree. We warmly welcome him back to EKWM. He has taken up a permanent, part time position and will work across the disciplines, centred on the office.

It is a big undertaking, but knowing Ben, I am sure he will stay on top all needed as he works towards his goals. We have given an undertaking that we will support him with any on campus time he needs.

With his ability and it comes time to leave us, he will have a second set of skills to complement his uni. degree.

**June Whalley** celebrates a big "0" birthday this month. June has been part of the crew for many years, sharing her skills in collection areas and with the Friends.

We join together and wish June on the day and health and happiness in the years to come.



June on one of her earlier "0" birthdays, with some rough company in Margaret Sheaves and yours truly

**Jessica Sturch** and family has had a bad run on the health side recently. It's that time of the year. It is to be hoped that it is all behind them. We wish them good health into the future.

Great to see **Shiralee Hjorth** back on shift. Having been quite ill, our wishes are with her for a continuing, complete recovery. It has been a long journey back to health from that sudden onset which needed treatment in Sydney, her well known can-do outlook on life came to the fore when she needed it most. Cheers, Shiralee.

It was bad luck, but probably wise, to call off the "The Dinner for the Dedicated". While it was a relative short period between the booking and the cancellation of the venue, we felt we were between a rock and a hard place.. The covid situation deteriorated somewhat in that period. The risk posed by all of us being together in an enclosed space, emphasised the possible risk to short term continuity of the Museum.

Talking to Steph Rawlings a couple of days ago. Still recovering from a knee replacement surgery, she is ok in herself. We may not see her until the worst of the cold weather has past.



While in the sick bay, former front liners, **Jan Freeman** and **Yvonne Smith**, succumbed to the winter flu and were laid low for a few days. Both are on the mend now. May best wishes flow their way.

**Charli Mitchell** and parents completed their Bathurst trip, for her to compete in the state wide soccer trials. Her team finished fourth.

It's a big ask with the young players required to become part of a team with others they barely know, let alone competitively play against others who are in the same circumstance.

However, Charli proved her mettle and is among the limited players chosen to move on to the next phase.

So it's off to Sydney. This time there will be even less time to get to now team-mates. Mum, **Kirrilley**, is steeling herself for the city traffic and with Dad not able to go, reckons she'll deserve a gong of her own, on their return home.

Once again we will be cheering  
Charli along.

**Rob Whiter** has been delving into the treasure trove, that is the web site Trove. Rob has passed on some of the information he extracted.

Unfortunately, yellowing of the paper and the fading of the print made it unsuitable to be included as received. So needing the typing practice!!!, I will re-write it here.

## Killer Museum Committee

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At a meeting of Eden Killer Museum Committee on Tuesday afternoon at the "Magnet" office it was resolved to ask Imlay Shire Council to draw up an agreement regarding the handing over of control, financing and insurance of the Eden Killer Museum.

"The President, Mr. J. Turnbull was in the chair; and others present were Messrs A. Phillipps, G. Davidson, C.E. Wellings, and W.T. Hall.

Secretary:

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Outward correspondence comprised one letter to the council asking confirmation of the appointment of extra members to the committee. Inward comprised a letter from the council stating that the matter of appointments of extra members to the committee was outside its jurisdiction; a letter from Mr. G. Davidson expressing willingness to act as custodian of the museum; and from Imlay Shire Council asking if the committee would be willing to enter into an agreement to take over the management, insurance and general control of the Killer Museum.

It was resolved that Mr. Davidson be appointed custodian. In accordance with the terms stated in his letter.

On the motion of Mr. C. E. Wellings, it was resolved to ask the council to draw up an agreement for the approval of the committee, and to notify that body of the committee's decision to charge 1/- for adults and 6d for children as a means of financing the upkeep and insurance of the building.

It was stated that in the vicinity of 80 pounds had been collected by the committee by exhibition the Killer skeleton over a period of five years. The bulk of this amount was raised in the first twelve months."

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The date on this clipping was October 21, 1939. It can be safely assumed that moving into the new building was imminent or having just occurred. How excited those who brought it about and the town, generally, must have been. For

little Eden to have a special building for **their** museum.

I wonder how much they were aware of what was occurring in Europe at that very time

Imagine yourself back in the day. No reticulated power. Yet. (John Logan was behind the eventual power supply). The main transport to the capital city was by steamer. The telephone call was manually connected. The newspapers, several days old on receipt. Motorcars were beyond the reach of the ordinary Joe. If he was lucky, the weather right, not working far from town, a good tally of sleepers survived the pass he may have been able to put a few bob aside, a motor bike may have been purchased. A luxury most aspired to. But the end result of most personal transport was what it had always been as it had been to the original bush liver; shanks' pony.

But they had their Killer Museum. And "Killer Museum" was how it was referred to even up to Bert Egan's day.

I experienced some opposition when I attempted to join the organisation with the Royal Australian Historical Society in the late seventies. I had to give a detailed explanation why the word Killer needed to be used!

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### Editor's note.

In all probability, Tom was being re-settled into where he/she was to remain undisturbed for nearly fifty years, after which the skeleton was examined resulting in a very favourable report written on the

It was soon after this that operation "NEWHOT" (new home for Old Tom", came into being as a fund raiser for the new wing. The subsequent building programme provided us with what is now the Davidson Gallery and the space below it. Apart from this new gallery area it was the first time that we had a designated storage area. An expanded shop space allowed us to display goods for sale. We also needed to fulfil our obligation to meet the terms of the loan we had taken out.

Running running costs which were growing in tandem with the reputation of EKWM. This all called for a more business-like management operation into the future.

# In the Galleries

It may seem somewhat slow, but progress is being made on the gallery make-overs.

Like much of what we are trying to bring to conclusion, we are to a large extent in someone else's hands.

C.M. Angela has been flat out on several fronts, not the least of which is the re-siting of "Tom" and "Beryl". This exercise, as you are no doubt aware, very much to the fore of the Board's thinking when we commenced the building programme.

It is commonly touted that the visiting cruise vessels prompted the building action. The increase in visitation from that quarter, certainly had a huge impact on the "traffic" block that was occurring between the skeleton and the whaleboat. The growing popularity of group bookings began to highlight the problem earlier.

Angela had handed a design brief to Greg Lissaman, with the view to producing an exhibition plan aimed to maximise and feature, the reason for our being. Tom as the drawcard for the 50,00 people to EKWM annually and deserves highlighting. The ultimate outcome from this design exercise may not reach its conclusion until the autumn of 2023.

Because the problem of the traffic choke is more pressing than that time scale, it has been agreed that we move "Beryl" into the extended mezzanine gallery. While this is the ultimate destination for the whaleboat, its positioning at this time will not necessarily be as the ultimate design requires.

We will be seeking help from some more able bodied, people than

that of our own, to help with this job. It will alleviate our immediate need.

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To help fill the new spaces ahead of the eventual make over, some offers from the NMMA were taken up.

This exercise took a fair bit of the load off Angela's shoulders when she was working on the longer term plans, while trying to fill what are quite huge display areas that is the new galleries.

"Dogs and Cats at Sea" and "Remarkable" have been very well received by those who have seen them thus far.

We had limited tenure of both these exhibitions and some continuity would help us while we still wrestle with our ultimate lay outs.

It was agreed that Angela contact the Sydney institution with the view to prolong their stay with us.

Australian National readily agreed with the result that they will remain with us until the coming peak season has passed.

There is some cost in this arrangement.

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Angela, in her own right, applied for and was successful in acquiring a grant to produce a touring exhibition to feature the story of the I.S.N.Co.

It is designed to be able to be displayed by those groups who have quite confined spaces. Each group are invited to add items from their own collections, to present a really local flavour. We have agreed to show take the display. In our turn.

Congratulations Ange. This overdue account of this business, will be well received.

# The Calendar

## June

- 9th. Regular monthly Board meeting
- 13th. Queen's Birthday holiday.. Car Rally,
- 15th. Friends meeting
- 20th. Curatorial meeting
- 21st. Winter solstice
- 24th. Vic Schools break up
- ?90 year old's morning tea

## July

- 1st. NSW Schools break up
- 11th. Vic Schools return
- 12th. (Tues) Coral Princess.
- 14th. Regular monthly meeting
- 18th. Curatorial
- 19th. NSW Schools return
- 20th. Friends

## August

- 7th. (Sun) Coral Princess

## September

- 23rd Coral Princess

## October

- 10th Coral Princess

## November

- 12th Quantum of the Seas
- 13th Pacific Adventure

## December

- Dates to be decided.....
- Official opening.
- AGM.
- Re-siting of exhibits

*Cheers*

Jack

